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SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1901.

WILL INCREASE STATE AND
COUNTY TAXATION UPON
TOWNS.

The State board of Equalization has just added a total of \$151,472,000 to the grand list of the towns of the State. Hartford's addition, \$25,000,000, is the largest on the list. Bridgeport's is \$6,000,000. New Haven's \$5,000,000 and Waterbury's \$4,000,000. A somewhat peculiar addition is the \$10,000,000 to Greenwich; it may mean that, in the board's opinion, the many New York millionaires, owning homes there, are under-assessed and taxed, which is quite probable true.

The reason given for the unusually large and the unusually numerous additions to town grand lists is that some of the towns having voluntarily increased their assessment rates, it was advisable to increase the total assessments in other towns in order to equalize the county taxation upon them. It is a somewhat singular explanation. If any town now assesses at full value, as some of them do, should their grand lists be increased because other towns have abandoned the policy of under-value assessments and are now obeying the statute which requires assessments at full value?

The wholesale additions to grand lists carry the appearance of having really been made in preparation for the repositioning of a State tax upon towns. Equalization is really needed if this tax is not to bear more heavily upon full-value than upon under-value towns. These additions will largely increase both State and county burdens upon the towns and will be reflected in their necessarily increased tax rates.

There does not appear to be any disposition upon the part of this General Assembly to cut down State expenditures—quite the contrary in fact. It seems to be much more interested in devising new items of expense than in use of the pruning knife, and the board of Equalization has just developed another method of increasing taxation.

That the new crop wheat is endangering the success of the attempt to corner July wheat, is a pleasing announcement. The new crop is not yet on the market but there is an evident certainty that it will arrive in ample time to put an end to the attempted gamble in a prime necessary of life.

Several of the steel companies which reduced wages during the recent trade war between the Steel trust and the independents, are restoring the former rates. This evidently means that the trade war is ended, and that the steel companies have ceased to fear adverse tariff action.

In the Senate, Thursday, all tariff amendments proposed by the Republican "insurgents" which would reduce taxes on women's and children's dress goods, were voted down by the Republican regulars who seem somewhat prejudiced against these two classes of the population and lose no opportunity of retaining or increasing the tax burdens upon them.

The announcement that Mr. Bryan will be a candidate for U. S. Senator from Nebraska, which comes from the editor of the "Commoner," practically retires him from the Presidential contest of 1912. His Senatorial candidacy will be decided upon at direct primaries to be held in 1910 and should he win, as seems rather more than possible, his term in the Senate will begin on March 4, 1911. In the event of his defeat at the direct primaries, it would still be possible for him to become a Presidential aspirant in 1912, but he would not be likely to enter into two important contests coming so nearly together. Mr. Bryan would undoubtedly be a useful member of the Senate.

The State of Washington has a new law which provides for medical examination of candidates for matrimony. This policy has been widely discussed. Its purpose is to prevent the marriage of persons whose offspring might, through heredity, become lunatics, criminals, or imbeciles or subject to diseases which are supposed to be hereditary. Criminalologists declare that there are families in which crime is apparently hereditary; lunacy is generally held to be hereditary; imbecility in children might follow the marriage of imbeciles, and there are diseases which are said to be hereditary, though one of them—consumption—is now exempted by medical scientists. The purpose of Washington law is evidently good, but it will probably fall of effect, for most candidates for matrimony will undoubtedly go outside the State to be married, in order to avoid the medical examination.

In a speech before the Congress of Roman Catholic missionaries at Washington, President Taft declared that "this country is broad enough for all denominations to work together for the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and for all of us to live here as American citizens and that we should make no invidious distinctions in elections because of religious belief."

As may be recalled, a Western clergyman voiced his opposition to the Taft candidacy last year upon the ground that Mr. Taft was a Unitarian and, therefore, unorthodox, and that the Chief Executive of this country shall be one whose religion was in full harmony with orthodox Christianity. It was the evident expectation of this clergyman that his objection to the Taft candidacy would be taken up by the Democratic papers and made a prominent issue in the campaign, but it "fell flat." The Democratic campaign managers and newspapers refused to take any part whatever in any religious controversy, whatever, as was eminently right and proper in this free country. Perhaps, President Taft had this incident of the campaign of 1908 in mind, when he declared that "we should make no invidious distinctions in elections because of religious belief."

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Bird Elocution.
The blue jay is a great elocutionist and gives utterance to many unlooked for remarks, but the one most often heard in the woods relates to the possession of a "chee-tidley-ink." Just exactly what sort of creature or thing this is no one can tell, but whenever I am in the woods I hear the jays exclaim "Chee-tidley-ink—got him," to which the meadow lark in the pasture clearing replies, "Oh-so-cheap," with a most sarcastic drawl on the "so" and an inflection on the "cheap." As a rule, the meadow lark says his say while perched on a fence post, and he talks with his mouth wide open. There are a lot of little people in the thickets who are always in such a hurry and talk so fast that it is difficult to tell what they say. There is that gayly colored little fellow the red start, crying, "T-wee-wee-wee-whistlet," and the dainty summer yellow bird, who has something to say in the same line and much in the same manner. What he wants is wheat, and although he never eats it, his constant cry is, "Wheat, wheat, I'veat wheat, wheat, wheat."—Dan Beard in Recreation.

Fools All the Doctors.
"There is a hale and hearty looking old chap walking about town," remarked a New York physician lately, "who for years has had a complication of diseases which make him most interesting to the profession. The ailments of which he shows undeniable symptoms are rarely seen in combination, and the state of his inner workings is a matter for speculation among the doctors who have examined him."
"The old fellow himself loves to tell that when he first asked medical advice some twenty years ago the physician, a famous practitioner in those days, wrote across the diagnosis he had put down on paper: 'This man cannot live thirty days.' I should like to be present at the autopsy." That great doctor has been dead these many years, and the dying patient still smiles cheerfully and seeks a cure for his malady. Queer, isn't it?—New York Press.

Crockett and the Mules.
When Davy Crockett sat in the national legislature as a representative of the state of Texas he had many clashes with men of more education, but less wit, than himself. It is told of him that one day while standing in front of his hotel on Pennsylvania avenue a swarm of mules trotted by under the custody of an overseer from one of the stock farms in Virginia. "A congressman from Boston, who was standing near by attracted Crockett's attention to the unusual sight, saying:
"Hello there, Crockett. Here's a lot of your constituents on parade. Where are they going?"
The celebrated hunter looked at the animals with a quizzical glance, and then, turning to the other, said quietly, but with great emphasis, "They are going to Massachusetts to teach school."—Harper's Weekly.

Jack and Jill in Norway.
A writer on Norway says, "Our familiar nursery friends Jack and Jill are descendants of Hjukil and Bil, the ebbling and flowing tides, the tumbling crests of which, breaking one over another as the waves wash the shore, are rather aptly described in the nursery rhyme."

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Be Sunny.
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Very Curious.
He—Is she really so curious? She—Curious! Why, she'd listen to advice just to find out what it was.

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